The statue of liberty means more than an everlasting friendship between two countries. To immigrants it means an open door filled with many different opportunities. Before moving into this country immigrants had no money, no job, and little skills. They thought it would be better for their kids and family to start a life and get an education. After being packed like sardines on boats for days when they had a sight of the tall graceful lady it was a memory that would never leave them. At first many were scared and terrified about coming to a new land. They weren’t familiar with any laws, people, or the expectations of living there, but most of their fears drifted away when thoughts of turning over a new leaf filled their heads.

Starting over their lives in a new country wasn’t an easy task especially depending on where you came from. Germans came for less harsh treatment because in their country they were treated like trash. When they reached America they were able to get jobs as building rockets for astronauts and formed the fundamental institutions for American life. The Irish immigrants had education and skills, but they still wanted to move to a new country to be able to practice their religion freely and be able to own land. The statue of liberty was to welcome everybody and she did except the Chinese and Japanese Americans.

In their homeland they experienced

Notes

Germans: Less harsh treatment

Irish: Practice religion freely, land ownership, were educated and skilled workers and served as indentured servants, frontiersmen and Indian fighters

Scandinavian: came to start new lives, religious and political freedom, drove out of their land by rich and policies of state churches

Japanese: peace and prosperity, and better lives for their children, When came to country still went through the hardships like back in Japan.

Chinese: came mainly for money

Polish/Russian: overpopulation, widespread famines, political unrest

<http://memory.loc.gov/learn/features/immig/japanese.html>